



**Approved 08-09-04**  
**KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2004**  
**EXCHANGE BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM 6A**

**Members Present:** Shauna Cheney, Alberto Gallego (awaiting Executive appointment), Howard Miller, Helen Nilon, Jim Nobles, Eleanor Owen, Ron Sterling, Clifford Thurston, Gwendolyn Williams

**Members Absent:** Joshua Freed (excused), Melody Cecilia James (excused)

**Guests Present:** Linda Brown (KCASAAB Chair/MHAB Liaison), Allan Panitch (board applicant), Pam Pratt (private citizen), Silvia Singer (Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation), Eugene Wan (board applicant)

**Staff Present:** Russ Goedde, Marty Lindley, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson, Amnon Shoenfeld

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## **I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Board Chair Ron Sterling convened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

## **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Helen Nilon:** NAMI Eastside will hold its July Forum on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Evergreen Hospital located at 12303 NE 130<sup>th</sup> Lane in Kirkland. The topic is "What is Medical Necessity?" Copies of NAMI Eastside calendar were passed out.

**Ron Sterling:** State Mental Health Task Force will meet on July 27<sup>th</sup> in Sea-Tac area.

**Eleanor Owen:** Washington Medicaid Integration Project Meeting will be held on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **III. MINUTES**

Howard Miller made a motion that was seconded by Jim Nobles to approve the June 8, 2004, meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

##### **A. Board Membership Update**

There are two new board applicants who are in attendance today – Allan Panitch and Eugene Wan. Orisade Awodola, a board nominee, withdrew her application for board membership due to schooling. She is going to graduate school in Virginia.

##### **B. Committee and Liaison Assignments**

Board Chair Ron Sterling asked board members who have not signed up for any committee and/or liaison assignments to do so now. He also took time to explain the role of a liaison.

Jim Nobles volunteered to join the Recovery Initiatives Committee. Eleanor noted that the Recovery Initiatives Committee is now meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Exchange Building Conference Room 6A.

Ron stated that not all providers want a liaison. He is still checking with Community Psychiatric Clinic (CPC) if it would like a liaison for their agency. If the response is in the affirmative, Ron will serve as its liaison.

Eleanor expressed her interest to be a liaison for Western State Hospital. Clifford Thurston expressed an interest as a liaison for a consumer-operated program in the KCRSN, such as a clubhouse program. In addition, Clifford will switch from the Quality Council to the Recovery Initiatives Committee.

##### **C. Bylaws for Quality Council Discussion and Vote**

Helen Nilon wondered whether it is necessary for committees to develop their own bylaws in addition to the existing MHAB bylaws. The Quality Council Bylaws were put to a vote. The result of the vote was five oppose and one abstain. The proposed Quality Council Bylaws did not pass.

##### **D. Goals and Priorities**

Ron inquired if the board received his email which contains a number of items for discussion. One of them is about board's goals and priorities for 2004-2005. Ron asked if the board is agreeable to generate a document entitled "Goals and Objectives for 2004-2005" as a means to streamline the board. Shauna expressed concern about taking on additional tasks and issues when the board has not even dealt with the current issues. Eleanor recommended forming an ad hoc committee to discuss streamlining the board. Shauna suggested that this be a time-limited committee.

Eleanor made a motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee on a time-limited basis to discuss goals and objectives and make recommendations to the board; and that meetings be conducted on face-to-face and/or by email. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The committee members will be composed of Eleanor Owen, Shauna Cheney, Helen Nilon, and Clifford Thurston.

Ron encouraged the board members to utilize email exchange to discuss issues and concerns in between board meetings. This way board meeting time can be used more efficiently. There was discussion about whether conducting board business by email was advisable since not everyone has email. Some board members felt that email communication is a less effective way to communicate.

#### **IV. STAFF REPORT**

There is a state level discussion on the state-only funds shortfall that is anticipated to take place due to a change in CMS rules regarding the use of Medicaid savings which will take effect on January 1, 2005. The loss of the flexible use of Medicaid savings has caused large concerns with RSNs. They are now working closely with the Governor's Office and legislators on how to maintain services in the light of this new development. A County Stakeholders Planning Workgroup has been formed to address the impact on its system in 2005 and to develop a contingency plan in the event that the state does not make up the deficit in state-only funds next year.

The RSN is having an external quality review of its operation which is mandated under the Balanced Budget Act to make sure that Medicaid rules are being followed. A CMS audit is scheduled towards the end of this year.

#### **V. KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SPENDDOWN PROJECT - Russ Goedde**

Russ Goedde, MHCADSD Senior Contract Specialist, gave a brief background on King County mental health spenddown project with Medical Assistance Administration (MAA), and how this benefit program is currently working.

MHCADSD projects tier payment expenditures for clients who are on a Medicaid spenddown each year. Approximately 1,200 people benefited from this program in 2003, with MHCADSD tracking about \$1 million of tier payments. Russ handed out a guide to this program titled *King County MHCADSD MH Spenddown Project* as a reference.

Spenddown is triggered when a client's income exceeds the Medicaid maximum allowable income; it disqualifies a client from receiving Medicaid coverage. In the MHCADSD agreement with MAA, when the CSO informs a client about the loss of Medicaid coverage, the agency that receives the tier payment for the client reports the payment amount to the client's CSO, and if the tier payment meets the spenddown amount, the client is back on Medicaid.

## **VII. BUDGET BRIEFING – Marty Lindley**

Marty Lindley, MHCADSD Finance and Administrative Services Manager, distributed copies of King RSN: Categories of Expenditures by Categories of Funding and walked the board through the document. The handout shows the County's best estimates for 2005 state only non-Medicaid costs. She explained how and where dedicated funding is spent.

A question was asked as to how RSN deals with the issue of the 2005 estimate state only-non Medicaid amounting to \$29,101,086 and there are only \$14, 856,723 state only dollars available. Marty responded that RSN will be having a dialogue with the state. The Division would advocate fixing the fund base.

The State might speed up expenditure of state dollars to help out RSNs in January 2005. If the State doesn't deal with the funding issues early in the legislative session, the RSN could run out of state-only dollars early in 2005.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **A. Recovery Initiatives Committee**

The Recovery Initiatives Committee met earlier today and discussed the critical necessity for clients to obtain and maintain stable housing and receive supportive services to succeed in the recovery process. In addition, the committee agreed to forward a recommendation to the Mental Health Advisory Board to achieve the goals mentioned above. Eleanor Owen presented the recommendations of the Recovery Initiatives Committee to the board that "the RSN include in 2005 contract with the providers more recovery services that emphasize case management time on employment and vocational goals."

A motion was made, which was seconded to accept the recommendation from the Recovery Initiatives Committee as read by Eleanor Owen. The motion was passed with five in favor, one oppose and one abstain.

### **B. Quality Council**

Eleanor Owen moved and it was seconded by Helen Nilon to accept and approve the content of the Quality Council brochure, the 2003 Quality Council Annual Report, the Final Recommendations to King County RSN Regarding Case Manager Turnover Concerns, and the Quality Council Recommendations Regarding Changes to the Quality Council Web site. Further formatting and the addition of required ADA language may need to take place before documents can be distributed further or posted on the Web site. The motion was passed unanimously.

## VI. LIAISON REPORTS

**Helen Nilon, Seattle Mental Health:** A written report on Seattle Mental Health was distributed. The report includes the kind of clients the agency serves and in what kind of settings; the types of support the MH team offers; the regional successes they have been; the region struggles faced, ideas for Expanded Community Services in the coming year and an update on residential and housing services.

**Shauna Cheney, Seattle Counseling Services and Consejo Counseling and Referral Services:**

Seattle Counseling Services moved last July 9<sup>th</sup> to a new location at 1216 Pine Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, in Seattle. There is a 50% increase in space which provides expanded group sessions and more mental health group sessions. The agency is in its 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation.


Consejo has a new wave of peer classes. There has been an increase in children's groups and increased attendance in senior groups. The agency is working on getting CARF accreditation. The agency staff attended the recent Behavioral Health conference. The agency facility is done with their remodeling work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Prepared by:

Rhoda A. Naguit  
Recording Secretary

Attested by:

  
Ron Sterling  
Board Chair